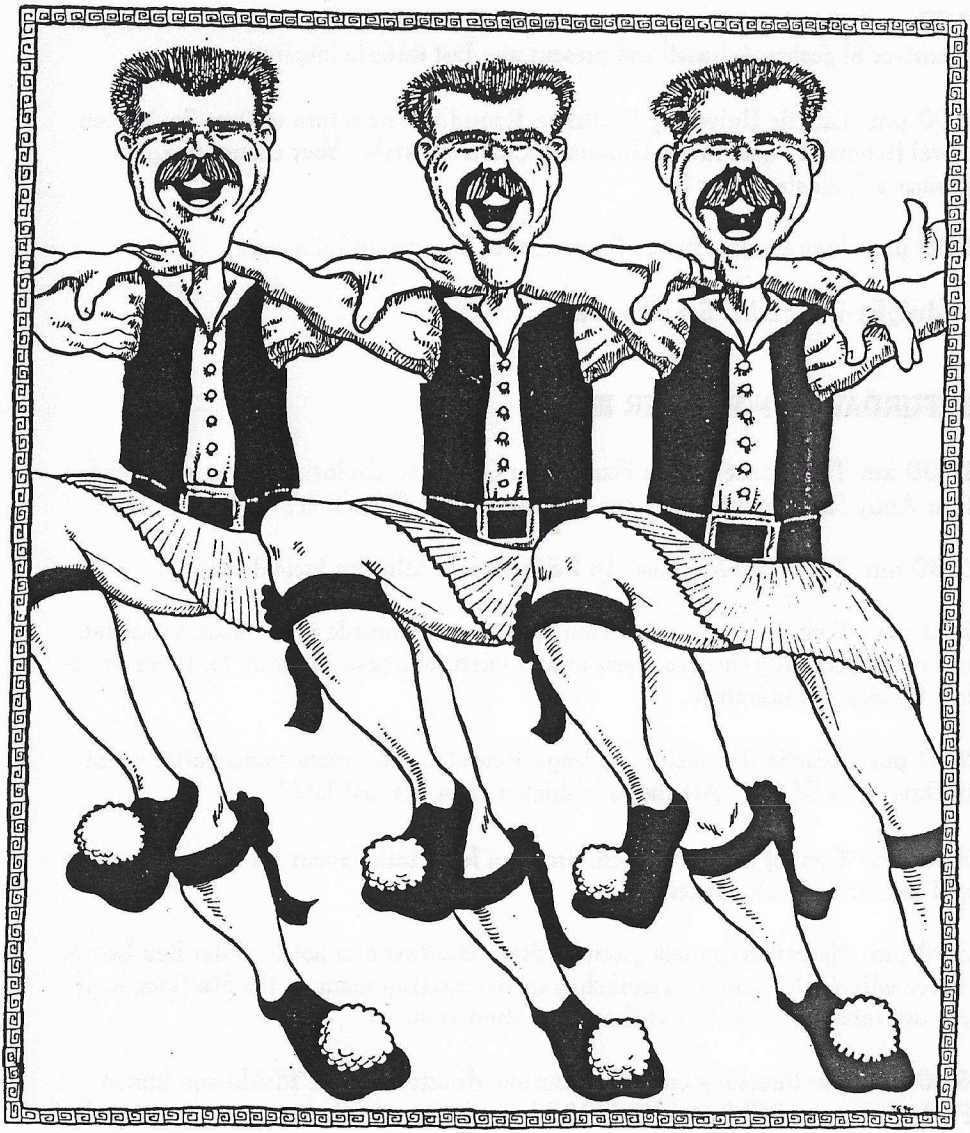
Read Me!



NOVACON 24

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 4th NOVEMBER 1994

7.00 pm Opening Ceremony - just the usual, introduce the GOH, committee, you volunteer as gophers (please!) and present any last minute inspirations.

8.00 pm Galactic University Challenge, Round 1. The return of Dave Cox's (even more) fiendish SF quiz in the University Challenge style. Your chance to again answer a "your starter for 10".

9.30 pm Joyce and Bradbury's Emporium of Dreams and Illusions.

Midnight-ish FILM. See Film notes

SATURDAY 5th NOVEMBER 1994

10.00 am The Science Fiction Foundation Collection Exclusive. Come along and hear Andy Sawyer reveal all on the progress of 'The Collection'.

11.30 am The Dream Machine. Dr Keith Hearne talks on lucid dreaming.

1.00 pm Book Auction. Rog Peyton's continuing crusade to persuade, browbeat, con or just generally encourage you to part with your cash in return for those priceless (?) works of literature.

2.30 pm Galactic University Challenge, Round 2. Two more teams battle it out in Dave Cox's SF quiz. Are they any thicker than the last lot??

3.30 pm Guest of Honour Speech. Graham Joyce talks about his work, influences and how to do Greek dances.

5.00 pm Hypnotherapy talk given by Steve Bowkett aka horror writer Ben Leech. Steve will also be running a workshop in the meeting room on the 6th floor, so if you are interested volunteer at the registration desk.

6.30 pm The Director's Cut. Nigel Barton, director of GET REAL! and Simon Frith, director of DEEP IN THE WOODS will be here to show and tell about their short films.

8.30 pm Balti Banquet. For those who have booked, the chance to enjoy a local delicious Indian speciality in congenial company. (The time has had to be put back as the hotel need more time to set up).

10.30 pm The Live Band. Back by popular request, Bad Influence, fresh from their triumph at Eastercon.

Midnight-ish FILM. See Film notes.

SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER 1994

10.00 am The Cutting Edge of Medical Technology. Julian Headlong's satirical look at developments within medical research and the NHS.

11.30 am Art Auction. The Art Show (Rooms 204, 205 and 206) - remember? Well too late, Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan will be auctioning off the artwork. So come along and bid for that masterpiece.

1.00 pm Special Effects. John Priest will give an insight into special effects and animatronics in television and film.

2.30 pm Galactic University Challenge, 3rd/4th Play Off and Grand Final. The chance to find out just who are the smarty pants amongst the Novacon membership. Don't assume anything, remember last years favourites lost it all here!

4.00 pm Are cons a con? Just where does your money go? Greg Pickersgill moderating with Richard Standage, Ian Sorensen and David T Cooper they will be talking about just how conventions are budgeted and will answer your questions.

5.00 pm Turkey Readings II - The Return. Graham Joyce, Carol Morton and Tom Holt will try to reproduce that hilarious session from last year.

6.00 pm Awards Ceremony. Award time - who will have won the Novas? Who walked off with the Galactic University Challenge trophy. And time to see if those raffle tickets you bought bear fruit. It is also time to say farewell to the committee and Guest of Honour and sign up for next year.

7.30 pm Film. See film notes.

7.30 pm Beer and Sausage Tasting. Tickets a must for entry. For the connoisseur and the beginner, both drink and food wise. We explore the mysterious firkins that have been lurking around the convention and enjoy up to ten - yes TEN different types of sausage, including vegetarian cooked to perfection.(ARIEL SUITE).

New for this year is a meeting room available for meetings both formal and informal, the hypnotherapy workshop will take place here along with any readings that may be done. To this end we have already booked Tom Holt down to do two readings of his work one at 5.00pm Saturday and the other 1.00 pm Sunday. So come along and listen to Tom read from some of the funniest books in a long time. If you want to book this room please contact the registration desk.

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME: *The Novacon 24 Film Programme*
Steve Green

Friday, 12 Midnight:

NIGHT OF THE EAGLE
(Independent Artists; UK, 1961, 87 minutes: dir. Sidney Hayers)

Psychology professor Norman Taylor (Peter Wyngarde) becomes gradually convinced his wife Tansy (Janet Blair) is misguidedly using witchcraft to aid his academic career. Only when he intervenes - and places them in lethal danger - does Taylor realise she is far from the only practitioner on campus.

Also known as BURN, WITCH, BURN, this second screen adaptation of Fritz Leiber's CONJURE WIFE (the first being 1944's WEIRD WOMAN, second in a series of six "Inner Sanctum" thrillers moulded from Simon & Schuster novels as vehicles for Lon Chaney) avoids the jokey approach of I MARRIED A WITCH (1942) and BELL, BOOK AND CANDLE (1958) and instead opts to underline the novel's more sinister elements. The steady accumulation of evidence allows Hayers to build up the atmosphere and reinforce the credibility of the scenario (supplied by TWILIGHT ZONE regulars Charles Beaumont, Richard Matheson and George Baxt).

Saturday, 6.30 pm:

DEEP IN THE WOODS
(Broadsword Films; UK, 1989, 10 minutes; dir. Simon Frith)

In an Arthurian dreamverse, a gallant knight attempts to rescue a young maiden assaulted by deformed dwarves, but soon realises discretion might have been far wiser than chivalric honour.

Worthy winner of this years Delta Award at the Fifth Festival of Fantastic Films, Frith's short fantasy was rightly praised by director Norman J Warren for its photography and editing; the final "twist" might be familiar, but it's handled well enough for that slight flaw to be overlooked.

GET REAL!
(Gusto Pictures; UK, 1994, 20 minutes; dir. Nigel Barton)

For company executive Dave Bartlett (Jonathan Coote), the Personal Reality Simulator is more than a Virtual Reality spin on the Walkman - it's literally a way of life, more attractive in every respect than the drab existence beyond his visor.

Produced for a mere £5000, Nigel Barton's addition to the "Just Say No" campaign would make Roger Corman beam - every penny is shown on screen, plus a fair amount he's saved by enlisting the aid of enthusiastic volunteers. Applauded at the Fifth Festival of Fantastic Films, this is one of the most assured directorial debuts in years.

Saturday, 12 Midnight(ish)

THE HAUNTING
(Argyle Enterprises; UK, 1963,112 minutes; dir. Robert Wise)

Dr Markway (Richard Johnson) gathers together two psychics (Julie Harris, Claire Bloom) and to the skeptical heir to an allegedly haunted house (Russ Tamblyn) in a bid to form an anthropological rationale for paranormal phenomena).

Notable for Wise's restraint (reminiscent of both THE ANDROMEDA STAIN and THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL, but which slid into catatonia on the original release cut of STAR TREK, THE MOTION PICTURE), this remains arguably the scariest ghost movie ever, not least thanks to David Boulton's superb photography, the deliberate downplaying of special effects (other than lens magic, the only gimmick is a rubber door) and the faithfulness of Nelson Gidding's screenplay to Shirley Jackson's THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE.

Sunday: rescreening by democratic decision (vote soon, vote often!)

LATE NEWS: Both Nigel Barton and Simon Frith have announced their intention to attend Novacon 24 on Saturday night and introduce their films in person, and to take part in a short Q & A session I'll be hosting afterwards. Such is the high standard of these movies, I honestly believe any film fan who misses this item will really regret it.

Special thanks to: John Richards, Pete Wright, Jane Richardson at Filmbank, Kevin Clarke, Martin Tudor, Ann Green, Tony Berry & Richard Standage.

Well that's it, hope you enjoy the programme. If there was something or other you didn't like or objected to tell us and perhaps amends can be made. We would point out that our Sarah who put this programme together has just come out of hospital after an appendicitis operation so please be gentle with her.

FOOD AND DRINK

BREAKFAST Breakfast times are 7.30 am to 10.30 am each morning. Please note that VOUCHERS will be issued with your key card which are ONLY to be used for breakfast. If you do not receive any vouchers with your key card pleaselet the Receptionist know or failing that a Committee Member.

HOT FOOD Cheap hot food will be available in at the following times:

Friday	6.00 pm to 7.00 pm (Lounge and Restaurant)
	11.00 pm to Midnight (Lounge only)
Saturday	1.00 pm to 2.30 pm, 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm (Lounge and Restaurant)
	11.00 pm to Midnight (Lounge only)
Sunday	1.00 pm to 2.30 pm and 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm (Lounge only)

The Hotel have given us the following sample menu (it is only a sample):

Deep fried cod with chips and salad	£3.60
Scampi chips & tartare sauce served with a salad garnish	£3.85
Ploughmans salad of cheddar or stilton with bread & pickles	£2.85
Selection of sandwiches egg, cheese, beef, chicken & ham	£1.75
Vegetable lasagne coated with cheese	£2.70
Meat lasagne served with salad	£2.70
Chilli con carne served with braised rice	£3.25
Oven baked potatoes served with a choice of 3 fillings	£2.00
Chef's home made soup with crusty bread	£1.00
Assorted filled baguettes	1.80
savory croissants with 3 fillings	£1.95
Portion of chips	£0.60
Bread roll and butter	£0.50
Selection of vegetarian and Vegan meals to be available daily	£2.85

Other items ie burgers, pies etc are available but need to be ordered at the servery, see notice board by the hatch for details.

RESTAURANT Also available are meals in Raffles Restaurant as follows:

3 Course Table D'Hote Dinner	£13.95
3 Course Sunday Lunch	£10.95
2 Course Sunday Lunch	£8.75

Opening times 12.00 noon until 2.30 for lunch and 7.00 pm until last orders at 10.00 pm (9.30 pm on Sunday).

Don't forget the Balti Banquet on Saturday at 8.30 pm (only pre bookings) and the Beer and Sausage tasting on Sunday at 9.30 pm. Tickets may still be available for the Beer and Sausage tasting so if you are interested contact Carol on the Registration desk asap.

COLD FOOD Filled rolls will be available from 11.00 am to 1.00 am in the lounge.

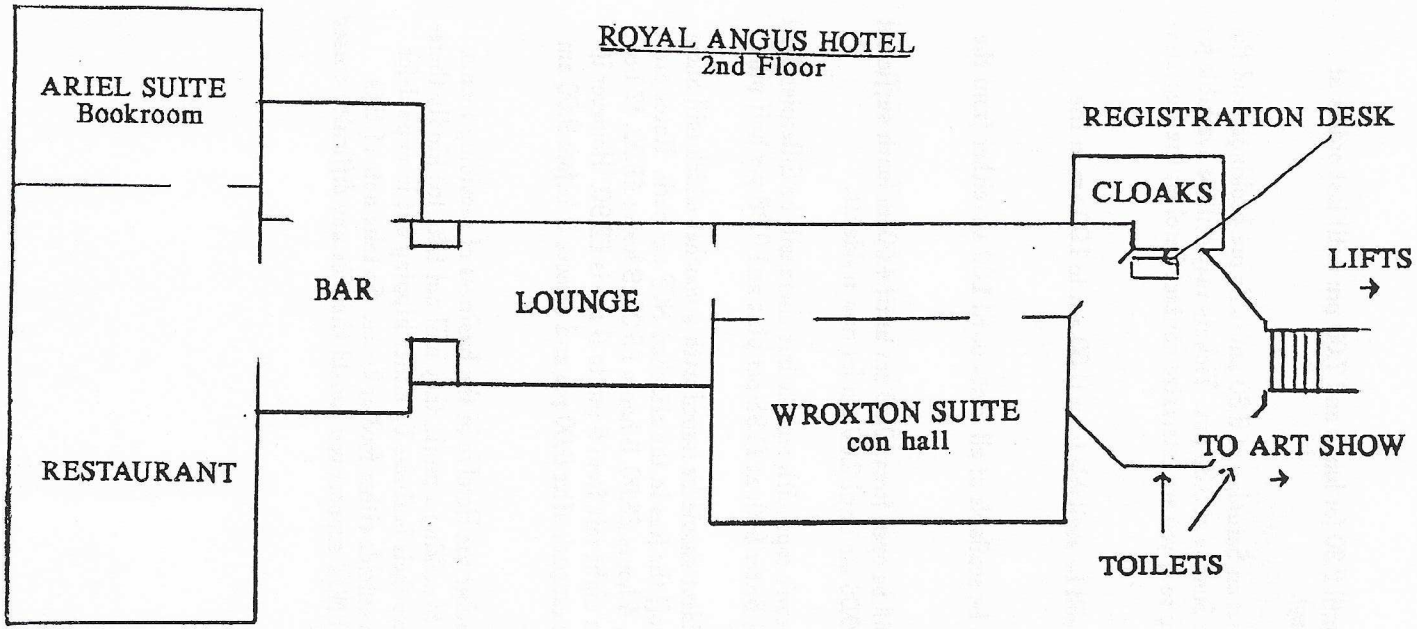
TEA AND COFFEE Will be available at all times until 1.00 am either from the lounge or the bar.

BAR Whimseys Bar will be open from 10.00 am until 4.00am (with sufficient demand) for residents and 10.00 am until 2.00 am for non residents.

BOOZE Again the Hotel can't cope with real ale but there will be Gillespies Malt Stout and Theakstones Best Bitter both at £1.95 per pint and 0.98 per half pint.

CAR PARKING Each resident should be issued with a voucher which will allow a discount of £1.90 per day off the fees in the attached NCP car park. Rates are: 2 hours £2.00, 3 hours £3.00, 4 hours £3.90, 6 hours £5.00, 9 hours £6.00, 12 hours £6.80, 24 hours £7.50. The night rate from 6 pm to 9 am is £2.90. However if you park your vehicle in the car park after 6.00 pm and remove it before 9.00 am then the car parking is free.

DIRE WARNINGS Remember the Hotel is in the business of providing rooms, booze and food with a view to making a profit, they will not take too kindly therefore to anyone trying to usurp their business by either kipping out in unpaid-for rooms and bringing in from outside either food or booze. So take note of this warning the Committee will NOT support you should there be any difficulty caused by actions such as these.



SECOND FLOOR

Convention Hall - The Wroxton Suite
Art Show - Rooms 204, 205 & 206
Book Room - The Ariel Suite

SIXTH FLOOR

Meeting Room - Waverley Suite